

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY
MONTH AND HONORING SHEVRIN
JONES

HON. STEPHANIE N. MURPHY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2021

Mrs. MURPHY of Florida. Madam Speaker, as part of our national celebration of Black History Month, I am paying tribute to African-American leaders from Florida who have made outstanding contributions to our community and our country. These accomplished men and women have not always received the recognition they have earned.

Today I rise to honor Shevrin Jones. Shevrin grew up in Carol City. He earned his bachelor's degree in biochemistry and molecular biology from Florida A&M University and his master's degree in educational leadership from Florida Atlantic University. Jones went on to found L.E.A.D. Nation, a South Florida nonprofit organization committed to youth leadership development and social entrepreneurship training. He is now pursuing his Ph.D. in Educational Leadership at Florida Atlantic University.

Shevrin was elected to the Florida House of Representatives in 2012, where he served honorably for eight years. In 2020, he was elected to the Florida Senate, becoming the first openly LGBTQ member of any race to serve in that chamber.

Senator Jones is continuing his family's proud legacy of public service. His father, Eric Jones, served as Mayor of West Park for over 15 years.

Senator Jones has always had a passion for education. He taught A.P. Chemistry in the Broward County Public School district, serves as the Executive Director of Florida Reading Corps, and founded South Florida Youth Summit, the largest gathering of young people in South Florida.

Every day, Senator Jones is making a positive difference in his community and for our country.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and celebrating Shevrin Jones.

SHARON RITZMAN

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sharon Leatrice (Karr) Ritzman of Golden, Colorado who passed away on February 8, 2021.

Sharon's childhood was spent in Omaha, Nebraska. After graduating high school in Nebraska, Sharon went on to attend the University of Iowa. There she was an active member of Pi Beta Phi and graduated with a bachelor's degree in psychology. Shortly thereafter, Sharon married Vern Ritzman on August 28, 1965 in Omaha, NE. Following their wedding, Sharon accompanied Vern on his career path of family medicine, all the while holding a variety of meaningful positions herself. Sharon's accomplishments include chief operator for Northwestern Bell Telephone in Sioux City and Iowa City, Iowa; client advocate with the Colo-

rado Job Corps; special assistant to the United States Air Force Red Horse Officer Corps at Osan Air Force Base in Korea ('68-'69 Pueblo Incident); healthcare quality assurance consultant for Northrop Corporation ('84 Saudi Arabia); office manager of Vern's practice, president of both the Clear Creek Valley and Colorado Medical Society Auxiliaries, and an advocate for child health issues through the American Medical Association.

Sharon became active in the community in which she and Vern raised their family—Wheat Ridge, Colo. She owned a ladies' boutique, Stepping Out, where her daughter helped to manage the store and created memories there together until Sharon's retirement in 2004. During retirement, Sharon and Vern traveled the world and enjoyed time with their family and friends.

Sharon was a devoted wife and loving mother and grandmother. Sharon is survived by her husband of fifty years Dr. Vern Ritzman; son Michael Ritzman of Breckenridge, Colo.; daughter Michelle (Matt) Spidell, of Glenwood Springs, Colo.; grandson Trevor Ritzman of Lakewood, Colo.; and furry granddaughters Daisy and Maya.

I appreciate and thank her for her lifetime of service to our community.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CAROL
ANN MARTINEZ

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2021

Mr. CORREA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Carol Ann Martinez, wife of Marine Corps Veteran SSGT Jose Martinez, and an avid volunteer to the American Legion Post 132. Carol passed away on January 29, 2021, during an emergency heart surgery.

Carol was born on March 6, 1960, and raised in Santa Ana, CA. She was a graduate of Santa Ana High School and worked for the Santa Ana Police Department early on in her career.

Being a proud military wife was a highlight for her. She was an Auxiliary member and was involved with the American Legion Post 132 alongside her husband. She assisted with the children and youth activities for the post and district levels. As well as being a historian for the post, she took pictures and documented activities. Carol also started events such as the "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Dinner" and the "Welcome Home Korean War Veterans Dinner".

She assisted with a multitude of functions and fundraisers outside of the Legion as well like the Relay for Life. The Relay for Life was near and dear to her heart from losing so many family members to cancer.

Carol was incredibly giving, and losing her to heart complications affected so many people. We will all love her, miss her and remember her every single day.

She was laid to rest on February 22, 2021, at Riverside National Cemetery.

She is survived by her husband, her daughter Jessica and her grandsons Aaron, Evan, Jayden and Roman.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Carol Ann Martinez. May her memory live on with her loved ones.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
MAJOR GENERAL THOMAS LEE
SINCLAIR

HON. RALPH NORMAN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2021

Mr. NORMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Major General Thomas Lee Sinclair who passed away on February 17, 2021.

Born to the late John Albert Sinclair and Gladys Lee Sinclair on September 22, 1947, Thomas was raised in Union and graduated from Union High School. He pursued a Bachelor of Science at Clemson University and received both a Master's in Education and EdS degree at Winthrop University. Furthering his studies, Thomas attended the United States Army War College where he received a Master's in Strategic Studies. Thomas served his country as a decorated United States Army veteran of 38 years, retiring after earning the rank of Brigadier General for the South Carolina Army National Guard. While on active-duty, he amassed notable honors including the Legion of Merit, the Army Achievement and National Defense Service Medals, and the South Carolina Palmetto Cross for his dedicated efforts during Operation Hugo. Thomas spent half of his military career in command roles, leading his surrounding staff through significant assignments.

For 27 years, Thomas found a fulfilling career in the Union County School System as a high school teacher, junior high school principal, and assistant superintendent. He enjoyed mentoring students and retired as a Union County supervisor. A member of Grace United Methodist Church, Thomas remained faithful and humble through all facets of his life. Former Chairman of the Union Community Foundation and President of the Union Civitan Club, he was determined to leave a lasting mark on his hometown. Thomas was happily married to Kathryn Bowers Sinclair with three adult children, Libby, Kelly, and Tommy, and ten beautiful grandchildren. His presence will certainly be missed by those who knew him, but his legacy will shine on for years to come.

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ARTHENIA JOYNER

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OF FLORIDA

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Today I rise to honor Arthenia Joyner. Born in Lakeland and raised in Tampa, Ms. Joyner has been a champion for justice and equality from a young age, participating in her first civil rights demonstration as a high school junior in 1960. She studied political science at Florida A&M University, where she also earned her law degree.